

**SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2011**

PRESENT: Debra Gorra Barash, Faye Jordan-Peters, Joseph Riggio, Steve Smart, Joel Mankowski, Carlos Jaramillo,

NOT PRESENT: Christopher Woodfill, Suzette Garay

INTERPRETERS: Amy Fryman, Nicole Mueller

STAFF PRESENT: Berni Mattsson, Executive Director; Lydia Thompson, Legal Counsel; David Carlson, Bureau Assistant

GUESTS: Troy Peters (Deaf Community), Donna Langwasser (Waukesha County Technical College), Julia Jourdan (Community Interpreter), Averil Holcomb (Community Interpreter)

CALL TO ORDER

Berni Mattsson called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. A quorum of six members was present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Joel Mankowski moved, seconded by Faye Jordan-Peters, to approve the Agenda as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Joel Mankowski moved, seconded by Debra Gorra Barash, to approve the Minutes of September 8, 2011, as published. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND 2012 BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

NOMINATION: Joseph Riggio nominated Joel Mankowski for the Office of Chair. Nomination carried by unanimous vote.

Berni Mattsson called for other nominations three (3) times.
Joel Mankowski was elected as Chair.

VICE CHAIR

NOMINATION: Joel Mankowski nominated Steve Smart for the Office of Vice Chair. Nomination carried by unanimous vote.

Berni Mattsson called for other nominations three (3) times.
Steve Smart was elected as Vice Chair.

SECRETARY

NOMINATION: Debra Gorra Barash nominated Faye Jordan-Peters for the Office of Secretary. Nomination carried by unanimous vote.

Berni Mattsson called for other nominations three (3) times.
Faye Jordan-Peters was elected as Secretary.

Board Appointments for 2012

Credentialing liaisons (Mankowski and Smart) and exemption liaisons (Gorra Barash and Woodfill) were previously designated by the Council. Joseph Riggio and Debra Gorra Barash volunteered to serve as practice question liaisons.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Berni Mattsson introduced herself as the new Executive Director for the Sign Language Interpreter Council and also introduced new Bureau Assistant David Carlson.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Volunteer Interpreters

Faye Jordan-Peters said some clarification is needed about what interpretive services can be provided on a volunteer basis and what is considered compensation. Lydia Thompson noted that “compensation” can also be defined as services in addition to cash. The law doesn’t require a person to be licensed if they don’t receive compensation. The public may file a complaint if someone is providing interpretive services for compensation without a license. Faye Jordan-Peters said that sometimes a deaf individual won’t file a complaint about an unlicensed interpreter because they like that individual.

CARLOS JARAMILLO JOINED THE MEETING AT 9:33 a.m.

Follow up on VRI/VRS

Steve Smart asked if an interpreter who is providing services **into** Wisconsin (via the internet from a location outside the State) has to be licensed here? Debra Gorra Barash said her feeling is that anyone providing services in WI needs to be licensed in WI. Lydia Thompson said in relation to VRS, Federal regulation applies. Lydia Thompson will research VRI to see what laws apply. Mankowski said previous legal counsel had researched laws in other states, VRI.

Vlogs

Joel Mankowski and Faye Jordan-Peters previously made a Vlog (video blog) discussing licensing requirements for sign language interpreters. They check with Chris Woodfill on the status. Faye Jordan-Peters asked if it would be possible to get the completed Vlog posted on the DSPS website. DSPS staff will check on what would be needed to post the Vlog.

Dissemination of information to the deaf and hard of hearing community

Debra Gorra Barash asked if there is any way of accessing a **list** of registered interpreters? She said the Wisconsin Courts website has list of registered interpreters. Debra Gorra Barash also said that the entire DSPS website is NOT accessible to deaf people. She suggested that in order to make the DSPS website accessible, a deaf person should consult with our IT people. She said the WI Association of Deaf would be a great resource. Carlos Jamarillo suggested that the DSPS website include a link to a website that is more accessible such as WAD or RID.

Report from credentialing, re: exemption requests

Debra Gorra Barash said previously there was a report produced by DSPS listing exemption requests. Lydia Thompson said she recalls four exemption requests since June. Debra Gorra Barash requested the matter be included as a standing agenda item. Joseph Riggio requested a data sheet be provided to SLIC members outlining exemption requests.

MOTION: Joseph Riggio moved, seconded by Faye Jordan-Peters, to approve legal counsel to keep and disseminate data in reports to the council on exemption requests received, granted and denied. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Steve Smart moved, seconded by Joseph Riggio, to approve credentialing liaisons to send credentialing related questions to the Executive Director for placement on the agenda as a report to the Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Council recessed at 10:59 a.m. and reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

Report of complaints

Debra Gorra Barash requested that DSPS report on the number and nature of complaints received. She also requested that someone from DOE be present at meetings when complaints are discussed. Joseph Riggio asked if it would be possible to have individuals record and submit a video complaint through our website. Berni Mattsson will raise the issue with DSPS IT staff.

Board member terms

Steve Smart said that staggered terms would be desirable for the sake of continuity on the Board. Lydia Thompson explained why that is not possible under Statutes.

Additional FAQs

Berni Mattsson said as we receive questions through our website, we keep track and prepare answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Licensed interpreters security

Faye Jordan-Peters said interpreters currently have their address listed on their credentials. She asked if the address can be removed from their license. She is concerned, particularly in prison settings, that people may obtain address of interpreter and threaten them or harm them. DSPS will check with Credentialing on what is possible. For example, can a second wallet card be printed without an address?

Council recessed for 20 minutes at 12:20 p.m.

Change in Administrative Code Numbering-Berni Mattsson noted that all Administrative Rules issued directly by the department, including Chapters 200-202, will now be designated by SPS.

Liaison Reports-Steve Smart said there were two credentialing issues brought to the SLIC liaisons. One involved the application of someone who held a license in Missouri. The person was informed that there is no reciprocity and that they would need to meet full Wisconsin licensure requirements. The second case was someone who presented a deaf education degree as qualification for licensure. That was not accepted.

Speaking Engagement, Travel, Public Relations Requests-Lydia Thompson reported on her attendance at the recent RID conference. She did a presentation on the new Sign Language Interpreter requirements.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

School sponsored events FAQ-Lydia Thompson reported that the FAQ document was finalized and posted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Julia Jourdan, a community interpreter asked for clarification on the process of handling a complaint. Lydia Thompson said that DSPS seeks assistance from SLIC as to whether complaints should be opened. Julia Jourdan indicated that the SLIC needs to be involved in reviewing complaints. She also urged that DSPS communicate to licensees when SLIC meetings are scheduled so they can see the work of the board. She also suggests that there be a liaison to work with WisRID and the WAD liaison.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Carlos Riggio moved, seconded by Joel, to **CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION to consider individual histories (s. 19.85 (1)(f), Stats.) and to confer with legal counsel (s. 19.85(1)(g), Stats.). Roll call vote:** Debra Gorra Barash-yes, Carlos Jaramillo-yes, Faye Jordan-Peters-yes, Joel Mankowski-yes, Joseph Riggio-yes, Steve Smart-yes.

Open session recessed at 1:25 p.m.

Consulting with Legal Counsel

1) **Example of complaint information received by DSPS**

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Joel Mankowski moved, seconded by Debra Gorra Barash, to reconvene to open session. Motion carried unanimously.

Open session reconvened at 2:53 p.m.

MOTION: Steve Smart moved, seconded by Joel Mankowski, to designate Joseph Riggio (deaf member) and Debra Gorra Barash (interpreter member) as the name's the council is requesting to be on the screening panel. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Debra Gorra Barash moved, seconded by Joel Mankowski, to designate Smart and Jordan-Peters as liaisons to work with DSPS staff to develop a standard letter to include with case closure notices that are sent to a complainant, with the letter outlining other resources for pursuing their concerns. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Joel Mankowski moved, seconded by Faye Jordan-Peters, to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.